



Senator Tim Golden

Senate District 8



Senator Tim Golden, a South Georgia Democrat from Valdosta, is serving his fifth term in the State Senate representing the 8 District, including Brooks and Lowndes counties and portions of Cook and Thomas counties.

For the 2007-08 Senate term, Sen. Golden is serving as a member of the Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for the annual state budget. He also was appointed to the Senate Finance Committee, which is charged with writing the state's tax laws. Sen. Golden was reappointed to the Insurance & Labor and Higher Education Committees, and also serves on the Government Oversight Committee.

He brings a wealth of legislative experience to the body. He served four terms in the Georgia House of Representatives before his election to the Senate in 1998. Golden served as an aide to former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and was a long-time aide to former U.S. Congressman Charles Hatcher. He also served as staff director for the U.S. House Small Business Subcommittee on Energy and Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

While a member of the House of Representatives, Sen. Golden served on the Ways and Means Committee, the Banks and Banking Committee, and the University System of Georgia Committee. During his service in the House, Golden earned a reputation for being an ardent supporter of education. In 1993, he led a successful three year battle in the General Assembly to make Valdosta State a "regional university," and was honored with the school's "Distinguished Alumnus" award that same year. He secured over \$75 million in construction projects at Valdosta State. A supporter of technical education as well, Sen. Golden secured over \$35 million in bond projects at South West Georgia Technical College in Thomasville and Valdosta Technical College since 1999.

Rural health care concerns spurred Golden to author the "Rural Georgia Physicians Shortage Act" in 1995. The bill provides tax credits to physicians who choose to practice in one of Georgia's rural counties. Golden was named the "1995 Legislator of the Year" by the Georgia Academy of Family

Physicians for his efforts, and in 2006, the Academy recognized Golden as one of three “Champions of Family Medicine” in the State Legislature. The Valdosta Daily Times has named him one of five south Georgians who were “unsung heroes” for tirelessly working for the benefit of others.

In 1996, Sen. Golden introduced and passed the "Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief Act". It was the first of three bills he authored over a three year period that reduced employer's taxes by over \$500 million. In 1999, Sen. Golden joined with Governor Roy Barnes and Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond in passing a bill instituting a moratorium on unemployment taxes that saved Georgia employers another \$1 billion over the next four years. In recognition of his work, the National Federation of Independent Business presented Golden with their top award in both 1997 and 1998, naming him the “Guardian of Small Business” at the Georgia Capitol. It is one of the reasons the Georgia Retail Association described him as the “Voice for Small Business” in Atlanta in 2000.

In 2000, Sen. Golden introduced a Senate Resolution calling on the House to pass a statewide “Sales Tax Holiday.” In 2002, then Gov. Barnes embraced the idea and Georgia passed its first “sales tax holiday,” allowing working families to buy clothes for their children exempt from state sales tax. It has proven to be a boost for both working families and Georgia retailers.

Sen. Golden has been a champion of the Drugs Don’t Work Program, having passed legislation through the years to expand and strengthen this program. It allows companies to save 7.5 % on their workers compensation policy by maintaining a drug free work environment for their employees.

After graduating from Valdosta High School in 1972, Sen. Golden graduated from Valdosta State University with a degree in American History and Political Science in 1977

Sen. Golden is a successful businessman who founded and sold Golden Printing of Valdosta in 1999. He is currently co-owner of Beacon Hill Financial, a mortgage brokerage company located in Valdosta. Always active in his community, Sen. Golden has served several terms as the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Family YMCA. He has served on the Valdosta Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Board of the Valdosta Methodist Youth Home, the Valdosta State Alumni Board and the March of Dimes. He was a member of the prestigious Leadership Georgia program, Class of 1987.

Sen. Golden is married to the former Ellen Stewart of Valdosta. She is an attorney in the firm of Moore, Clarke, DuVall and Rodgers. They have a son, Seth, and they attend Park Avenue United Methodist Church in Valdosta.